

Explanation of Amendments in the Claims:

1.(cancel).

2.(cancel).

3.(cancel).

4.(cancel).

5.(cancel).

6.(cancel).

7.(cancel).

8.(cancel).

9.(cancel).

10.(cancel).

11.(cancel).

12.(cancel).

13.(currently amended) A method for forming a molded rod comprising:

providing a longitudinally continuous fibrous structure formed of a plurality of

fibers;

the fibrous structure including longitudinally extending continuous fibers;

impregnating the fibrous structure with a settable resin;

collating the impregnated fibrous structure including the longitudinally extending continuous fibers into an elongate continuous rod in which the resin throughout the rod is an un-set condition;

providing a generally cylindrical die having a plurality of die parts for surrounding a portion of the rod and for extending along a part of the length of the rod, which die parts can be opened in a direction transverse to the length of the rod to receive the rod and clamped together to form a hollow die interior defining a generally cylindrical

shape;

in a compression step, closing the die parts into a closed position onto the portion of the length of the impregnated fibrous structure while the resin remains in the un-set condition so as to apply a compressive force from the die parts onto the rod in a direction transverse to the length to cause the portion of the fibrous structure to conform to the shape of the hollow interior;

heating the die parts to set the resin in the portion;

and moving the die parts from the closed position to a release position;

wherein the die parts include a first die part having a first part cylindrical surface defining a first die part axis and a second die part, ~~each of the die parts~~ having a second part cylindrical surface defining a second die part axis forming a part of the hollow die interior defining the generally cylindrical shape such that, when the die parts are in closed position, the part cylindrical surfaces are have the first and second die part axes thereof coaxial to form the hollow die interior;

wherein the first die part and the second die part each include parallel mating surfaces on each side of the part cylindrical surface;

and wherein the first and second die parts are moved in the compression step from the release position in which the mating surfaces of the first die part are spaced from the mating surfaces of the second die part in a first direction transverse to the mating surfaces to bring the mating surfaces into contact together with the part cylindrical surfaces axially offset in an offset direction at right angles to the first and second die part axes so that the first and second die part axes are offset and in a second direction parallel to the mating surfaces and along said offset direction to bring the part cylindrical surfaces into the closed co-axial position to form the hollow die interior into the generally cylindrical shape.

14.(original) The method according to Claim 13 wherein th mating surfaces

of the first and second die parts on one side of the part cylindrical surfaces lie in a first plane which is parallel to and spaced from a second plane containing the mating surfaces of the first and second die parts on an opposed side of the part cylindrical surfaces.

15.(original) The method according to Claim 14 wherein the first and second die parts are moved from the closed position to the release position in a direction which is inclined to a right angle to the mating surfaces.

16.(original) The method according to Claim 14 wherein the first and second die parts are moved from the closed position to the release position in a direction which is substantially at right angles to a plane intersecting edges of the part cylindrical surfaces.

17.(original) The method according to Claim 14 wherein movement of the first and second die parts in the second direction, with the mating surfaces in contact, causes un-set resin to be swept from the mating surfaces into the hollow die interior.

18.(original) The method according to Claim 16 wherein the first and second die parts move from the closed position to the release position and back to the closed position in a generally triangular path.

19.(original) A method for forming a molded rod comprising:  
providing a longitudinally continuous fibrous structure formed of a plurality of fibers;

the fibrous structure including longitudinally extending continuous fibers;

impregnating the fibrous structure with a settable resin;

collating the impregnated fibrous structure including the longitudinally extending continuous fibers into an elongate continuous rod in which the resin throughout the rod is an un-set condition;

providing a generally cylindrical die having a plurality of die parts for surrounding a portion of the rod and for extending along a part of the length of the rod,

which die parts can be opened in a direction transverse to the length of the rod to receive the rod and clamped together to form a hollow die interior defining a generally cylindrical shape;

in a compression step, closing the die parts into a closed position onto the portion of the length of the impregnated fibrous structure while the resin remains in the unset condition so as to apply a compressive force from the die parts onto the rod in a direction transverse to the length to cause the portion of the fibrous structure to conform to the shape of the hollow interior;

heating the die parts to set the resin in the portion;

and moving the die parts from the closed position to a release position;

wherein the die parts include a first die part and a second die part, each of the die parts having a part cylindrical surface forming a part of the hollow die interior defining the generally cylindrical shape such that, when the die parts are in closed position, the part cylindrical surfaces are coaxial to form the hollow die interior;

wherein the first die part and the second die part each include parallel mating surfaces on each side of the part cylindrical surface;

and wherein the mating surfaces of the first and second die parts on one side of the part cylindrical surfaces lie in a first plane which is parallel to and spaced from a second plane containing the mating surfaces of the first and second die parts on an opposed side of the part cylindrical surfaces.

20.(original) The method according to Claim 19 wherein the first and second die parts are moved from the closed position to the release position in a direction which is inclined to a right angle to the mating surfaces.

21.(original) The method according to Claim 19 wherein the first and second die parts are moved from the closed position to the release position in a direction which is

substantially at right angles to a plane intersecting edges of the part cylindrical surfaces.